

32030/P THE

AMERICAN,

J. H. LAMBIER,

BRITISH BIRTH

LATE A CAPTAIN

IN THE

FRENCH IMPERIAL HORSE GUARDS;

AND ONE OF THE
LARGEST MEN IN THE WORLD.

FROM THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

London:

Printed by WILLIAM NICKS, No. 70, Houndsditch.

IMPROMPTU LINES
AFTER VISITING
THE AMERICAN.

By J. BISSET, Esq.

I have been twice to see the astonishing sight,
And each time came away with unbounded delight;
There is something quite noble and grand in his gait,
His manners are pleasing, surprising his height.

He is very conversant—extremely well bred;
In Love, War, and Politics, very well read;
I have seen many shows—but I frankly must say,
From none better pleas'd did I e'er come away.

Leamington Spa, July 3d, 1825.



A SHORT AND CORRECT ACCOUNT

OF THE

LIFE OF JAMES HENRY LAMBIER,

*Late Captain of the French Imperial Horse Guards,
and now travelling in this Kingdom, under
the Denomination of*

The American.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Allow me the honour to inform you that I am the offspring of an ancient Scottish family; my forefathers, of the name of Campbell, were inhabitants of Argyleshire, in the Highlands, until the troublesome times of 1745, when they became exiles from Scotland, and emigrated to America, where they took the name of Lambirth, to inherit a large property in the West India Islands, left my Grandfather by the Will of a distant relative. By this name in French I am now known, Napoleon having named me Lambier in my Commission as a Captain in the Imperial Horse Guards,

My parents were by no means of an unusual height or size, my father five feet eight inches; my mother five feet seven. They had a numerous family, twenty-one children --fourteen sons and seven daughters. I am a native of

the City of Boston, in Massachusetts State, a twin by birth, born June 29th, 1783, now in stature six feet eight inches, and nearly twenty-one stone in weight. My twin sister is also six feet four inches and a half, and stout in proportion. In the year 1802, I accompanied my father, who was a Merchant in the City of Boston, to Cape Frangois, in the Island of St. Domingo, in the West Indies, in order, if possible, to recover his landed property, which had for a number of years been forfeited by order of the Chief of the Brigands. Through the medium of friendly intercession of Marshal Le Clerc, who at that time landed with an army from France, to force the Colony to submit to the French Government, my father gained possession of his plantations, and then entered into a contract with the Marshal for provision for the French army serving in the Island of St. Domingo.

From the repeated visits of my father to Le Clerc, and myself having the honour to attend him in those visits, I became acquainted with Madame Le Clerc, sister to the great Napoleon, who was at that time First Consul, and afterwards Emperor of the French nation. This Lady, in compliment to my father, as well as from my extraordinary height as a youth, presented me with a Captain's Commission in the Imperial Horse Guards, a regiment raised by Napoleon, while Commander-in-Chief of the French army in Egypt. By the intercession of Madame Le Clerc with Napoleon, I had permission to continue at school, and to study as a Doctor of Medicine, having studied physic four years in the College of San de Agna de la Viga in Madrid, the capital of Spain. But being infatuated with the idea of a soldier's life, contrary to the good and honourable intentions of my father and family, who were Quakers, at an early period I quitted my

studies, and joined the French Imperial army, when to my surprise, although agreeable to an invariable custom of Napoleon, I was instantly attached to the 16th regiment of Polish Lancers, and sent with conscripts from France to the Peninsula, in order to make myself conversant with the different military evolutions considered by the Emperor as essential for every officer to understand, before he could be permitted to join the Imperial Horse Guards. I had, therefore, an opportunity of experiencing a great deal of real and serious service while serving with the Imperial army in the Kingdoms of Spain and Portugal; and have often bled on the field of battle, as well as encountered every other difficulty incidental to a soldier's life. I was present at the battle of Talavera de la Reyna, Albuera, Salamanca, Highlandra, Villa Franca, and the heights of Busaco, Bajados, and Ciudad Rodrigo, at the sieges; also at the renowned and ever memorable battle of Waterloo, where I had the honour of being personally with the Emperor Napoleon, on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of June; when my regiment received orders to join the other Cuirassiers in order to cover the retreat of Infantry which about eight o'clock were flying in all directions.

About half-past eight o'clock the same evening, having a severe recontre with a detachment of Enneskillen and Scots Grey Dragoons, I received a severe sabre wound on the right side of the head; from loss of blood and faintness, I lay some hours on the field of battle; but by the friendly aid of a British officer, a brother Freemason, I was enabled to join my regiment, which, without loss of time proceeded to Paris, and afterwards escorted the unfortunate Napoleon to Rochesfort, where he embarked on board his Britannic Majesty's ship Bellerophon, commanded by Captain Maitland. My regiment returned to Paris, when we were instantly disbanded by order of the late King

Louis XVIII. in consequence of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers having taken the oath of allegiance to Napoleon, his heirs and successors, never to serve under any other Monarch that might reign over the French Empire.

I then returned to the place of my nativity, the City of Boston, United States of America; and finding my parents dead, and that by the will of my father I had a coffee Plantation left me in the Parish of St. Andrew, in the Blue Mountains, Island of Jamaica; I proceeded thither, and took up my abode with the idea of living the life of a planter, but I had not been at the Plantation more than nine months, when I found that the life of a Planter and that of an Officer in the French Horse Guards were not equally agreeable with my inclinations, I therefore sought society; and unfortunately too soon was introduced into the company of those who like myself had more money than sense or economy to enable them to take care of it. In an unguarded moment I lost, by cards, £6,000; and in order to liquidate this debt (a debt of honour as it is called) was, by the advice of the friends of my deceased parents, obliged to make over the produce of my property for a term of years.

I then embarked on board the ship Briton, Captain M'Intosh, from Port Antonio, north side of Jamaica, for London, having previously got my friends to procure for me letters of introduction to a Nobleman to intercede with his late Royal Highness, the Duke of York, for a Commission in the British Horse Guards. I arrived in London on the first of August, 1817, and put up at the Salopian Coffee-house, Strand. I remained some time, when by good fortune I was taken to the Horse Guards, and personally introduced to his late Royal Highness, the

Commander-in-Chief, who gave me to understand that in consequence of my being an American by birth, and an officer of rank in the French service in the time of war, together with the difficulties of the times; and the number of British officers on half-pay, and the peace establishment, His Royal Highness could not in justice to his own feelings, recommend me to his Majesty for a commission. Being thus disappointed, and my pecuniary circumstances very low, I was at a total loss in what manner to act for future support in life, not having a friend in England; I, therefore, immediately went to Brighton, and became an exhibition.

The two first gentlemen who honoured me with a visit were his late Royal Highness, the Duke of York, accompanied by Colonel Gordon. His Royal Highness was pleased to express his surprise on seeing me in the line of an exhibition; but giving a full explanation of the cause and nature of my distressed situation, his Royal Highness was most graciously pleased to extend his benevolence, by giving me a very handsome present and then retired from the caravan. A few evenings afterwards Colonel Gordon entered a second time, and took me with him in his carriage, at twelve at night, for the purpose, as I understood, of visiting a Colonel of the Guards, and I was introduced to a corpulent gentleman, who received me in the most polite manner. After an audience of two hours and a half, during which time I was entertained most plentifully with the best Port and Claret, considering a longer stay would be an intrusion, I requested leave to retire, at the same time requesting to be informed from whom I had the honour to receive such princely entertainment, when the corpulent gentleman held forth his hand, I supposed to shake hands with me, and at the same time gave me to understand that on returning to the carriage my

request should be complied with. I shook him by the hand and returned thanks, when I was surprised to find a purse of sovereigns left in my hand. I bowed and then retired. On going to the carriage, Colonel Gordon informed me the corpulent gentleman was no other than his late Majesty.

I shortly afterwards proceeded to Bath, where I exhibited for several weeks, but being grossly deceived by a servant whom I entrusted to transact my little business, I was plunged into the greatest difficulties, but by the assistance of a gentleman who came from Ireland, for the purpose of engaging me for an exhibition, to travel with him in that country, I was relieved. I then accepted his proposal and immediately went with him to Dublin, in which city I exhibited several weeks, having the greatest attention paid by every family of respectability in the City who honoured me with their visits. I then proceeded through the different towns in the north and south of Ireland, where I also received every mark of respect and attention. In March, 1821, I embarked at Waterford, and on the 25th of the same month landed at Tenby in South Wales, and immediately commenced my route for Scotland. On the 3rd of July, I exhibited at the Fair of Greenock, and afterwards at Glasgow, Paisley, and Stirling, and proceeded on to Aberdeen, in the north of Scotland and then returned to Edinburgh, where I remained until the 2nd of February, 1822.

In the month of December following, I arrived at the race-ground, and exhibited in the Fair at Newcastle, and having partially exhibited in the different towns in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, &c.—I now have the honour of presenting myself before you,

JAMES HENRY LAMBIER.

PRICE TWO-PENCE,

Or what you please for reading,

J. H. L. will personally call in the Afternoon.

LAMBIER'S

MOST EFFECTUAL CURE

FOR THE

*Tooth-ache, Head-ache, Ear-ache, Quinsey, Scalds
or Burns, Bruises or Sprains, and Deafness.*

TO BE HAD FROM HIMSELF PERSONALLY.

This Medicine has received the sanction and support of the most distinguished personages in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, together with the united testimony of the first Physicians in Europe, and numerous favourable comments in highly respectable Medical Journals, where it has been declared to be the best thing ever yet discovered for the tooth-ache, it instantaneously relieves the most excruciating pain, preserves the teeth sound and firm, prevents further decay, effectually cures the Scurvey in the gums, fastens the teeth, and renders them firm and serviceable to the last period, and effectually prevents the Tooth-ache; it also cures the Quinsey in one night, and deafness in a short time, extracts the fire out of scalds or burns, blackness from Bruises or Sprains; in fact this Medicine no family ought to be without.

Price Two Shillings and One Shilling per Bottle.

USED AS FOLLOWS:—

Tooth-ache.—Place a small bit of linen lint in the palm of your left hand, drop eight drops of the oil on it, rub the oil well into the lint with the middle finger of the right hand, then rub the finger well round the gum of the aching tooth, then take the lint up in a little ball, squeeze the juice nearly out into the ball of your hand, place it into the bottom of, or in the aching tooth, when the pain will discontinue in one minute. Where the pain has been any length of time it will be necessary to repeat the operation a second or third time, whether the tooth aches or not, and it will effectually destroy the nerve.

Rheum in the Gums or Scurvy, or to fasten Loose Teeth—Rub a little of the Oil with the finger two or three times a day round the gums.

Deafness or Ear-ache.—One or two drops on a little fresh wool, placed in the cavity of the ear morning and evening, and keep the head warm; clear out the cavity of the ears before dressing them with a piece of clean old linen.

Head-ache.—Smell firm to the bottle, and apply a little of the Oil to the temples frequently during the day.

LAMBIER begs to recommend the Imperial Herb, or Aromatic Snuffs; it instantaneously cures the Head-ache, Rheumatic pains in the head, clears the Eye-sight, enlivens and invigorates the spirits in a most astonishing and surprising manner.

Sold in Tin Japan Boxes, 6d, each; Packages, 2d.

Superior Worm Cakes, which destroy Worms of every description that have ever yet been known to infest the human body.

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Brunswick Corn Salve, for destroying hard, soft, or bloody Corns, commonly called Bunions,

Sixpence and Threepence per Box.

Widow Young's Pills, 1s. per box.

White Oils for sprains, bruises, scalds, burns, and a most effectual cure for Rheumatic pains. 3s., 2s., and 1s. 6d. per bottle.

Vegetable Cerates or ointments, 1s. and 6d. a box.

Family receipts written at a moderate expence.

Yarmouth, August 1st, 1833.

This is to certify that I have this day examined the wounds of James Henry Lambier, late Captain of the French Imperial Horse Guards; from the number and nature of which, he is rendered incapable of the necessary exertion to procure a livelihood. It is highly necessary for the recovery of his health and wounds, (which may be very tedious) that he be admitted into one of the London Hospitals.

WM. H. TAILOR,

Surgeon, M. R. C. S.

The original Certificate may be seen, if required.

TO THE PUBLIC.

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Any Person wishing to have an interview with
LAMBIER can have an opportunity of so doing
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FINIS.